



Yellowstone Master Gardeners  
P.O. Box 35021  
Billings, MT 59107

## Mark Your Calendar

**Our yearly Christmas party will be in the main building at Zoo Montana at 6 PM, Wednesday December 5, 2012.**

We are planning a **potluck** dinner along with an optional gift exchange. If you want to receive a gift, please bring one to exchange- try to stay within a \$10.00 range.

If your last name begins with:

- ⇒ **A thru G** please bring a dessert
- ⇒ **H thru R** please bring a main dish
- ⇒ **S thru Z** please bring a salad

Utensils, plates, napkins and drinks will be furnished by the Association. We would love to have you and your spouse or companion of choice attend. To help us plan this occasion could you please **RSVP** to [sharon-wetsch@yahoo.com](mailto:sharon-wetsch@yahoo.com) so we can get a rough count. We hope you can all attend and help us cap off a great year..!

Thanks...Sharon

# YELLOWSTONE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 10

November 2012

## Montana MG Honor

**Julie & Amy** *by Bob Wicks*

The State Master Gardeners 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Celebration took place the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup> in Billings. On Friday night there was a banquet at the Holiday Inn where outstanding Master Gardeners were honored.

Amy Grandpre received the well-deserved honor of the State Master Gardener Program's Coordinator of the Year for 2012. Amy started the Master Gardener program in Yellowstone County in 1994. Besides coordinating the MG program, and answering all the horticultural questions in the county, Amy heads the Metra Demonstration Garden volunteer project and is a member of the Yellowstone County Master Gardeners Association. She enjoys square foot gardening. Amy also enjoys collecting bugs and is called the Bug Lady at the Extension office for a good reason. I can't thank Amy enough for all she does for our pro-

gram. Without her guidance we would not be the best MG program in the state.

Further, our own Julie Halverson was awarded a

State Outstanding Master Gardener Certificate.

Julie has been an outstanding volunteer.

She has been instrumental in the Zoo's gardens and Geranium Fest and co-chaired the After School Program. Julie is a very knowledgeable person and is a valuable part of the program. It is because of Julie and her hard work the Master Gardening program is so strong today.

We are so proud of Amy and Julie. Congratulations on your well deserved awards and thank you so much for all you do!!!!



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## TIPS

1. Hopefully you have cleaned and oiled all wooden handles. Stabilizer has been run through all gas engines. Got a soil sample and sent in for testing
2. Collect all your notes from the garden. What worked and what didn't. Note which varieties you want to try for next year. Do you make a diagram of the garden so you know where you will rotate next year's crops?
3. Do you save seeds from the garden and flower beds before you put them to rest?

PS - For reference - Labs in our area that do soil testing are:

Energy Laboratories Inc.	B & C Ag Consultants
1120 S 27 <sup>th</sup> St, Billings	315 S 26 <sup>th</sup> St, Billings
252-6325	259-5779

Both will need a gallon ziplock bag with soil taken from 4-6 places in the garden or lawn (don't mix the two) at 6" depth. They will test for N, P, K, calcium, organic matter, lime, sodium and more. A recommendation will be given as to what nutrients are needed or what is in excess. The cost can run from \$27.50 at B&C to \$68.50 at Energy Lab, depending on what you want. If you are having a particular problem, you may want to fill out one of their forms ahead of time that explains the problem, water, location, etc.

FYI - After hearing from several different places about the trouble with ethanol in our gas and the problems it can cause, I called Bill at King's Ace Repair and asked for his opinion. He recommends that stabilizer be put into the gas can the minute you buy it. There are things like water, varnishing, evaporation, etc. to consider. He said that any air cooled engine needs stabilizer in the gas.

Submitted by Sheri Kirsch

## November Check List

- Water all perennial plants heavily before the ground freezes to prevent winter drought damage. This includes trees & shrubs.
- Wrap the trunks of smooth, dark barked trees to prevent sun scald. A light colored, interior water base latex paint can be painted on trunks to reflect sun. Also, wooden laths or boards may be placed on the southwest sides of trees. This protection is especially important for young apple and cherry trees. Provide wind protection if trees are in area of strong winter winds.

## What's Your Expertise? -submitted by Merita Murdock

Hey fellow Master Gardeners, we thought it would be handy to have a listing of everyone's expert areas. We all have different interests and expertise. Therefore we would like to put together a listing of who we could call if we had a question on a certain subject. This list could also be used if you are sitting in for Amy and someone calls with an area that is totally not what you are into.

So, if you would like to participate, please provide your name, the best way to reach you (i.e. cell phone, email, etc) and what you consider your area(s) of expertise for lawns and gardens. Some areas might be: tomatoes, roses, trees, chemicals, organics, pruning, fertilizing, pest control, xeriscaping, etc. You don't have to be super smart in the subject, just knowledgeable and/or know where to go for information.

Once we get the list compiled we will send it out to everyone. We anticipate the list to grow as we do with our Master Gardening education. Please send your information to Merita at: [jef-fandmert@bresnan.net](mailto:jef-fandmert@bresnan.net).

## October 3rd Tour of Propp's

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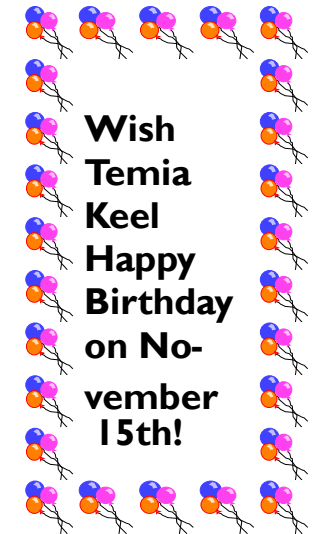
Morris Propp hosted our tour for October and showed off his home and property just out of Park City. He has 3 acres full of gardens, flower beds and various foliage.

It was a wonderful fall tour with the leaves turning color and many fall blooming flowers. Morris borders the Yellowstone River and has a fantastic view.



For those of you who missed this tour, Morris has said he would love it if we come back in the springtime and visit him again. Those of us who went will be going back and we hope you can all come.

*submitted by Sharon Wetsch & Sheri Kisch*



### Current Volunteer Opportunities:\*

Ext. Office Phone, etc.  
Metra Sq. Ft. Garden  
Farmers Market Info. Booth  
C.A.R.E. After School Program  
Special K Ranch  
Courthouse Planter  
Salvation Army/Vista  
Fair Judge  
Home on the Range Garden  
Moss Mansion  
Zoo MT/Geranium Fest  
New Visions/Passages  
Annual Flower Show  
Meadowlark House  
Women's Prison Garden  
Friendship House  
St. Andrew's Com. Garden

\*Please contact Amy Grandpre to see who is the current contact for these projects.

[agrandpre@co.yellowstone.mt.gov](mailto:agrandpre@co.yellowstone.mt.gov)

[pre@co.yellowstone.mt.gov](mailto:pre@co.yellowstone.mt.gov)  
Or call her at: 406.256.2821

### CRANBERRY SALAD

1 CAN JELLIED CRANBERRY SAUCE  
1 PKG CRUSHED GRAHAM CRACKERS  
1 8oz COOLWHIP, THAWED

In a 2qt square bowl, place half of the cracker crumbs.

On a plate, empty out the can of cranberry sauce and slice in two. Slice and layer one half the sauce onto the crumbs.

Top with half of the coolwhip. Repeat again, crumbs, sauce and coolwhip.

Refrigerate till serving. Best used the same day.

(To remove the sauce from the can, remove the lid from one end and partially open the opposite end to relieve the pressure and it will slip out.)

*Submitted by Sheri Kisch*



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<http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/horticulture/mastergard.asp>

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**Montana State University Extension - Yard and Garden:**  
<http://gardenguide.montana.edu>

Send your submissions for newsletter to [ymastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:ymastergardener@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for submission in following month's edition

#### Editors:

- ◆ Ann Guthals
- ◆ Bob Wicks
- ◆ Elaine Allard
- ◆ Marcella Manuel
- ◆ Sharon Wetsch
- ◆ Sheri Kisch
- ◆ Tracy L. Livingston

## Montana's Biggest Trees Registry

By Elaine Allard

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation keeps records on the largest trees in the state. These trees have been catalogued as the largest representatives of their particular species discovered so far. For more information go to <http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Assistance/BigTree/default.asp>

From looking at past registries, it appears that most of these record trees are located in the northwestern part of the state. However, I found the following information to be particularly interesting;

- ◆ There are many species of Montana trees that not represented in the registry because they have not yet been nominated
- ◆ There is also a special category for urban trees
- ◆ There is no funding to support this program; its success is mostly dependent on the volunteer efforts of people such as us.
- ◆ There is a specific form for nominating big trees to the registry <http://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Assistance/BigTree/Documents/nominationform.pdf>
- ◆ There are technical directions on how to measure a tree for nomination on the on-line site listed above.

Maybe like me, this will perk your interest in becoming a "Big Tree Hunter". Is there a "specimen big tree" in your yard or neighborhood? Or, will one of us find a tree to nominate in one of our outdoor adventures across the state? *(By the way, if you really get into this, there is also a national big tree registry. <http://www.americanforests.org/bigtree> )*

*Tennessee Ernie Ford recalls when every home had two Best Sellers: They were , of course, the Bible, which tells of the miracles of God, and the seed catalogs which prove them.*

Woops!!! Correction of last months recipe

### SPICY CARROT SOUP



1 Tablespoon olive oil  
1 medium leek— white & light green part only, chopped  
About 6 carrots— peeled and sliced to 3/4 inch  
2 teaspoons Harissa (I used several drops Tabasco sauce)  
Salt to taste  
3 cups chicken stock

Heat oil over medium heat and cook leek till soft, about 4-5 minutes  
Stir in carrots and harissa. Cook till carrots are soft, about 8-10 minutes.  
Add stock and salt and simmer 10-12 minutes.  
Puree 1/2 the soup till smooth. Stir into remaining soup. Serve.

Submitted by Sheri Kisch

**For Sale or Trade**

***This space is available for members use.***

**Wanted**  
**Save your 4" round (or square) plastic pots for After School Program - Mary McLane. (669-3329)**